(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered this issue to support excellance in creative arts literature etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed the Constitution of a "A.P. State Cultural foundation" in order to promote, disseminate and support excellance in creative arts, literature etc., and for the construction of a Cultural Complex at Hyderabad.

In order to complete the Cultural Complex, donations are proposed to be raised from the donors and also from industrialists/philanthropists, etc. The Government of India was requested to provide 100 per cent exemption from Income Tax to be provided to the donors under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

(c) The proposal for 100 per cent Tax exemption was not accepted by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

International Accreditation Courses for promotion of heritage abroad

4105. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn a plan to promote Indian culture and heritage abroad, for the benefit on Non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details of such international accreditation courses;

(c) in which languages these courses would be conducted; and

(d) how many students are likely to be benefited ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) One of the primary objectives of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations is to promote greater awareness of India's composite cultural heritage abroad. Towards this end, the Council has set up 14 Cultural Centres abroad.

Several of these Centres have been set up in countries having sizeable populations of Non-Resident Indians and People of Indian Origin, such as Trinidad & Tobago, Mauritius, Guyana, Suriname, U.K., Sri Lanka, South Africa and previously in Fiji. The activities of these Centres include training in Indian music/dance/Indian Languages/Yoga etc. The Council also undertakes cultural activities round the world to fulfil its mandate of strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Non-Resident Indians also benefit from such cultural interactions. Many persons of Indian origin have been provided scholarships under the various scholarship schemes of the Council to study Indian arts and culture in Indian Universities/Institutions. The Council is maintaining Chairs of Indian Studies abroad and has deputed Professors to teach Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Modern Indian History and Indian civilization in Hungary, Mauritius, Russia, South Korea, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, China, Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Thailand, France, Kyrghyzstan, Suriname and Uzbekistan.

(b) to (d) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations has not conducted any international accreditation courses.

MoUs signed by ASI with PSUs to develop cultural and heritage tourism centres in the country

4106. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of MoUs signed by ASI with PSUs to develop cultural and heritage tourism centres/sites in the country;

(b) the names of such sites and details of such MoUs;

(c) whether Government have issued any instructions to uplift the sites without causing any obstruction to beautify the monuments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of expected expenditure likely to be incurred on each such sites during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) :

(a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Oil Corporation for the conservation, preservation,